

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE

XMT AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057576

FOLLOWING REPEAT TRIPOLI 0339 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA,
ALGIERS, CAIRO, DAKAR, DAR ES SALAAM, KINSHASA, LAGOS, LISBON,
LONDON, LIBREVILLE, LUSAKA, MADRID, NDJAMENA, PRETORIA, PARIS,
RABAT, TUNIS, NOUAKCHOTT, USUN NEW YORK AND USCINCEUR ON MAR 02.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0339

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU, XA, LY

SUBJECT: OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ENDS IN TRIPOLI

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 0331 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 040592 (NOTAL),
(C) TRIPOLI 0267 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: 30TH OAU MINISTERS SESSION ENDED FEBRUARY
28. FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM 40 OF 49 AFRICAN STATES PAR-
TICIPATED. STRINGENT LIBYAN SECURITY MEASURES BARRED PRESS
AND WESTERN OBSERVERS FROM ACCESS TO CONFERENCE

DELIBERATIONS. RAPPORTEUR REPORT OF SESSION, OBTAINED BY EMBASSY INDICATES CONFERENCE DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO BUDGETARY, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS. HOWEVER, MINISTERS AGREED ON POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS COVERING ZIMBABWE, CANARY ISLANDS, REUNION, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, NAMIBIA, AND PALESTINIANS. MINISTERS DECIDED TO DEVOTE 31ST SESSION (KHARTOUM, JULY 1978) TO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN POLITICAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 30TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ENDED IN TRIPOLI EVENING OF FEBRUARY 28 IN APPARENT HARMONY. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA, 40 OF THE 49 OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE PRESENT. LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN. THE LIBYANS APPLIED STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PRIVACY OF DISCUSSIONS. CONFERENCE HALL AND HOTEL HOUSING THE MINISTERS WERE OFF LIMITS TO NON-PARTICIPANTS. LIBYANS WERE SO EMPHATIC THAT NO WESTERN DIPLOMATS SHOULD BE PRESENT THAT THEY EJECTED FROM CORRIDORS OF CONFERENCE HALL SEVERAL EUROPEAN DIPLO-CONFIDENTIAL

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MATS, INCLUDING ONE WHOSE COUNTRY HAD LEGITIMATELY OBTAINED OBSERVER CREDENTIALS FROM OAU SECRETARIAT AT ADDIS.

2. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED BY UNOFFICIAL MEANS A COPY OF RAPPORTEUR'S DRAFT REPORT ON CONFERENCE AND IS POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT VIA AIRGRAM. THIS REPORT AND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS APPENDED TO IT ARE PRESUMABLY FINAL DRAFT VERSIONS, BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVISION BEFORE ISSUANCE AS OFFICIAL RECORD. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE WESTERN JOURNALIST WHO COVERED CONFERENCE, OUTCOME OF IMPORTANT POLITICAL TOPICS WAS PRETTY MUCH AS STATED IN REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS. HE STATES FINAL RESOLUTIONS WILL BE ISSUED BY OAU ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE IN DAR ES SALAAM. WE ASSUME REPORT ITSELF WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TREAT IT ACCORDINGLY. REPORTING BELOW COVERS ONLY POLITICAL TOPICS.

3. AGENDA. THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL, IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THE AGENDA, REMINDED THE COUNCIL THAT IT HAD DECIDED IN ITS FEBRUARY 77 LOME SESSION THAT THIS SESSION WOULD BE DEVOTED TO BUDGETARY, ADMINISTRATIVE, INSTITUTIONAL, AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT CERTAIN STATES HAD PROPOSED THAT TOPICS OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER BE ADDED TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA BECAUSE OF THEIR TOPICALITY AND URGENCY. AFTER REPORTEDLY BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AGENDA, THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO ACCEPT COLONEL

QADHAFI'S OPENING SPEECH AS A WORKING DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE (REFTEL C). COUNCIL ALSO DECIDED THAT, BECAUSE OF LOME DECISION AND SIZE OF WORKLOAD, IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT GIVE DETAILED CONSIDERATION TO THE AGENDA'S POLITICAL ITEMS. THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT THOSE ITEMS BE INTRODUCED BY THEIR SPONSORS DURING THE 31ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL. THE MINISTERS
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SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED A 30-POINT AGENDA DEALING ESSENTIALLY WITH BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS, BUT INCLUDING REPORT OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE, EXPULSIONS OF PEOPLE, AND MIDDLE EAST QUESTION.

4. REPORT OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE. DURING CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE 30TH SESSION OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE, SEVERAL DELEGATES EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNAL POLITICAL TALKS IN SALISBURY. MOST DELEGATES REPORTEDLY "PRONOUNCED THEIR OFFICIAL OPPOSITION AGAINST WHATEVER MAY BE THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS." THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED THE LIBREVILLE DECISION TO INTENSIFY THE ZIMBABWE ARMED STRUGGLE AND CALLED UPON ALL ZIMBABWEANS TO "JOIN HANDS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." ACCORDING TO REPORT, THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION OF THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS ON ZIMBABWE. SOME DELEGATES INTERPRETED RESOLUTIONS AS NOT PRECLUDING OTHER RHODESIAN NATIONALIST GROUPS FROM BEING HEARD BY THE OAU. THEY URGED THAT THE INTERNAL TALKS NOT BE CONDEMNED UNTIL THE COUNCIL HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THEIR DETAILS. HOWEVER, MAJORITY OF SPEAKERS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE GRANTING OF A FORUM TO OTHER GROUPS WAS "TANTAMOUNT TO DE-FACTO RECOGNITION AND WOULD CAUSE THE PROLIFERATION OF A NUMBER OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCE FOR FUTURE STABILITY OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE." THE DELEGATES OPPOSING THE SALISBURY TALKS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATIONS BUT "FELT THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CREDITABLY CONDUCTED AND FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH AND SHOULD INCLUDE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT." THE DEBATE ON ZIMBABWE CONCLUDED WITH THE DELEGATES DECIDING TO LEAVE THE INTERPRETATION OF THE LIBREVILLE SUMMIT RESOLUTION TO
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THE OAU HEADS OF STATE, AND NOT TO ALLOW THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS INVOLVED IN THE SALISBURY TALKS TO HAVE A HEARING BEFORE THE OAU.

5. SOUTH AFRICA. THE GAMBIAN DELEGATION PRESENTED ITS PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL THAT SOUTH AFRICAN STEVE BIKO

BE IMMORTALIZED AND THAT A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL. NO SUCH RESOLUTION IS INCLUDED AMONG RESOLUTIONS APPENDED TO REPORT, ALTHOUGH RESOLUTION NUMBERS 4 AND 6 APPEAR TO BE MISSING.

6. CANARY ISLANDS. THE COUNCIL ENDORSED A DECISION OF THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE ON THE SPANISH "COLONY" AND NOTED THE RESERVATIONS OF MAURITANIAN AND MOROCCAN DELEGATIONS ON THIS QUESTION. THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION STATED THAT MOROCCO DID NOT CONSIDER THE CANARY ISLANDS A COLONIAL PROBLEM NOR THE MPAIC AN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. THE RECOMMENDATION REPORTEDLY WAS VOTED UPON BY THE OAU MINISTERS, FEBRUARY 26, WITH 47 VOTES IN FAVOR AND MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA OPPOSED. THE MINISTERS' RESOLUTION DOES NOT REVEAL PRECISELY WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE CANARIES, BUT VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS HAVE SAID THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE CANARY ISLANDS AS NON-AUTONOMOUS TERRITORY AND RECOMMENDED THAT OAU PROVIDE MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR CUBILLO'S MPAIC. IT ALSO REPORTEDLY URGED THE AFRICAN GROUP OF THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT.

7. REUNION. DURING DEBATE OF THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON REUNION, THE MAURITANIAN DELEGATION RESERVED ITS POSITION CLAIMING THAT MAURITANIA WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER AND BETTER INFORMATION ON THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF THAT ISLAND. THE MINISTERS ENDORSED THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION ON REUNION AND FIVE OTHER UNSPECIFIED RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE. A WESTERN REPORTER HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT BOTH MAURITANIA AND TUNISIA
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VOICED STRONG OPPOSITION TO LIBYA'S CALL FOR INDEPENDENCE OF REUNION.

8. SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. THE COUNCIL NOTED THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRESIDENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE WHO HAD INFORMED THE COMMITTEE OF AN "IMMINENT EXTERNAL AGGRESSION THAT WAS BEING PREPARED AGAINST THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF HIS COUNTRY." THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECIDED TO SEND A MISSION TO THE COUNTRY TO ASSESS THE SITUATION. ACCORDING TO A LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY REPORT, COMMITTEE WILL BE HEADED BY LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY.

9. NAMIBIA. SEE TRIPOLI 0335 FOR TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA. THE TWO-PAGE RESOLUTION, DRAFTED BY SWAPO, NOT SURPRISINGLY GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO SWAPO AS THE "SOLE AND AUTHENTIC" REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE, OPPOSED ANY OAU OR INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS WITH TURNHALLE GROUP, CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICA AND CALLED FOR "TOTAL SUPPORT FOR ARMED STRUGGLE WAGED BY SWAPO." CONFERENCE REPORT MAKES

ONLY BRIEF REFERENCE TO NAMIBIA, NOTING THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS CALLED FOR A RESOLUTION, AND DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY DISAGREEMENT ON THE ISSUE.

10. AID TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE THAT DONATIONS MADE AGAINST PLEDGES GIVEN AT THE FIRST AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO IN MARCH OF 1977 HAD REACHED \$7,000,000 AT THE END OF 1977. THE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED THAT SAUDI ARABIA PAID ITS PLEDGE OF \$2,000,000 TO THE ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE OAU. THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON AFRO/ARAB COOPERATION INDICATED THAT \$10,000,000 HAD BEEN PLEDGED TO THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA. SOME DELEGATES REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FUNDS PLEDGED FOR AFRICA WERE BEING PAID INTO ACCOUNTS OF ARAB NATIONAL FUNDS AND THAT THE TERMS AND MODALITIES OF SECURING THOSE FUNDS HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT.

11. MIDDLE EAST/PALESTINIAN ISSUE. THIS ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE LIBYAN DELEGATION. LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER TURAYKI INSISTED THAT THE PLO WAS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THE ONLY AUTHORITY COMPETENT TO SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF. TURAYKI LINKED THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WITH APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION CLAIMED THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS IN THE FOREFRONT IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL AND IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. HE STATED THAT THE ARAB ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1973 WERE SIGNIFICANT AND ENABLED EGYPT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ENEMY FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. HE SAID EGYPT WAS NOT INTERESTED IN A SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL AND EMPHASIZED THAT EVERY STEP THAT EGYPT HAD TAKEN THUS FAR WAS A STEP IN A SEARCH FOR PEACE. THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION HEAD REPORTEDLY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE PLO AND THE PALESTINIANS TO RECOVER THEIR LOST LAND AND AFFIRMED HIS COUNTRY'S TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE SPOKE OF ATTEMPTS BY IMPERIALISTS TO ENCOURAGE NON-PALESTINIANS TO SPEAK FOR AND NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. HE RENEWED AN INVITATION OF THE PLO TO THE OAU TO PARTICIPATE IN DELIBERATIONS OF THE PLO'S SUPREME COUNCIL. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, "ALL" SPEAKERS REPORTEDLY REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND THE PLO. "MANY" DELEGATES REPORTEDLY PROPOSED THAT THE OAU SHOULD REAFFIRM ITS LIBREVILLE RESOLUTION ON ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND ARABS WHOSE TERRITORIES HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. THE MINISTERS TOOK NOTE OF THE PLO'S STATEMENT AND THOSE OF LIBYA AND EGYPT AND REAFFIRMED THEIR "TOTAL
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SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE UNDER THE PLO."

12. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. (SEE TRIPOLI 0335 FOR TEXT.) PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS OF LENGTHY RESOLUTION ARE CONVENTIONAL, WITH REFERENCE TO ISRAELI ALLIANCE WITH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, LEGITIMACY OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE UNDER PLO, PALESTINIAN CAUSE AS AFRO/ARAB CAUSE, NEED FOR PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION, INDEPENDENCE, ETCETERA. TEN ACTION PARAGRAPHS INTER ALIA DECLARE FULL SUPPORT FOR PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS, NOTING THAT NO STATE CAN SPEAK FOR PALESTINIANS WITHOUT PLO CONSENT; CONDEMN ISRAEL "ALLIANCE" WITH RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA; DECLARE NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION SHOULD NOT SERVE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR "LEGITIMATE ARMED STRUGGLE" BY OPPRESSED PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND PALESTINE; AND APPEAL FOR INCREASED ISOLATION OF ISRAEL.

13. LESOTHO. THE MINISTERS DECIDED TO TAKE NOTE OF LESOTHO'S BOUNDARY DISPUTE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND TO DEFER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE TO ITS 31ST SESSION TO BE HELD IN KHARTOUM JULY 18-21.

14. EXPULSIONS IN AFRICA. HOW THIS ISSUE AROSE IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT, BUT IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY THE SENEGALESE. THE SENEGALESE DELEGATE TOOK A STRONG POSITION AGAINST THE "WHOLESALE EXPULSIONS OF NATIONALS FROM THEIR COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN," AND ACTION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF OAU. HE SAID MOST CASES OF MASS EXPULSIONS HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY IN WHICH MANY VICTIMS WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE APPEALED FOR ACTION BECAUSE OF UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCES OF THE PAST, CALLED ATTENTION TO A RESOLUTION HIS DELEGATION HAD TABLED ON THE ISSUE, AND SUGGESTED IT BE CONSIDERED DURING NEXT SESSION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. CONGO DELEGATE ROSE TO DEFEND CERTAIN ACTIONS OF HIS COUNTRY TO EXPEL ALIENS WHO HAD INDULGED IN "DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING." HE ASKED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF A SENEGALESE WORKING DOCUMENT WHICH HAD MENTIONED CONGO BY NAME AND CONTAINED UNACCEPTABLE REFERENCES. THE MINISTERS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE SUBJECT DESERVED TO BE CONSIDERED AND REFERRED THE MATTER TO THE NEXT SESSION.

15. CHAD. CONSIDERATION OF THE CHAD PROBLEM WAS OVERTAKEN BY THE LIBYAN-ARRANGED PARLEY IN SEBHA WHICH TOOK

PLACE DURING THE CONFERENCE. THE COUNCIL CONFINED ITSELF TO ASKING THE CHAIRMAN TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENTS OF CHAD, LIBYA AND SUDAN CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SEBHA DECLARATION AND ON RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA.

16. POLISARIO. THERE IS NO RECORD IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT THAT WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION WAS DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, A RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE TOLD US THAT COUNCIL AGREED TO CONVENING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING IN LIBREVILLE MARCH 24-28. GABON, APPARENTLY NOT ALTOGETHER ENCHANTED WITH PROSPECT, REPORTEDLY AGREED TO HOST CONFERENCE BUT DISMAYED COUNCIL BY STATING THAT SUMMIT WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$8 MILLION. NOT CLEAR WHO IS TO PAY. BLUCKER
UNQUOTE VANCE

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